

Message Text

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AIDAC

FOR ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR MACDONALD

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: NEW PROGRAM DIRECTIONS

REF: A) STATE 145605 B) 159902

1. USAID/YEMEN'S TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ALREADY FITS THE NEW PROGRAM DIRECTIONS IN ITS EMPHASIS ON NUTRITION, AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE SMALL FARMERS, AND WATER SUPPLIES. IN ADDITION WE HAVE PROPOSED FOLLOWING NEW ACTIVITIES OR EXPANSION OF EXISTING ACTIVITIES; COSTING IS ROUGH APPROXIMATION.

A) EXPANSION OF RURAL WATER SUPPLY PROJECT (022) TO PROMOTE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AROUND SMALL TOWNS. IN APPROXIMATELY 10 OF THE 15 AREAS WE PROPOSE TO WORK IN EACH YEAR, WE WOULD PUT IN TWO WELLS INSTEAD OF ONE, THE SECOND TO BE USED FOR IRRIGATION. WITH THIS WE WOULD COUPLE ACTIVITIES TO INTRODUCE TO SMALL FARMERS NEW SEED VARIETIES AND CULTURAL PRACTICES, SUCH AS FERTILIZATION AND PEST

CONTROL. ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL FUNDS OVER THREE-YEAR PERIOD: \$450,000.

B) EXPANSION OF SORGHUM PROJECT TO ENCOMPASS NEW RESEARCH ON PEST CONTROL AND FERTILIZER USE. PRESENT ACTIVITIES IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SANAA AND TAIZ AREAS WOULD BE EXTENDED TO LOCATIONS IN THE

NORTH AND HOT COASTAL PLAIN, WHERE TEMPERATURE CONDITIONS MORE FAVORABLE. ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL COST FOR THREE YEARS: \$285,000.

C) NEW PROJECT FOR RESEARCH IN LEGUMES. SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN NUTRITION COULD BE ACHIEVED BY BROADENING YEMENI DIET (NOW CONCENTRATED ON GRAINS) TO INCLUDE NEW CROPS SUCH AS BROADBEANS, CHICKPEAS, LENTILS, PIGEONPEAS, ETC. THIS COULD BE DONE IN COORDINATIONS WITH WORK NOW BEING CARRIED ON BY FORD FOUNDATION IN BEIRUT. ESTIMATED COST FOR THREE YEARS: \$330,000.

D) PASTURE GRASS RESEARCH: YARG HAS STRESSED NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION OF DROUGHT-RESISTANT VARIETIES WHICH COULD BE AIR-SOWN IN COASTAL PLAINS DURING ANNUAL FALL RAINS. WE UNDERSTAND SUCH VARIETIES HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED IN AUSTRALIA, PERHAPS IN SOUTHWESTERN US. ESTIMATED COST FOR THREE YEARS: \$275,000.

E) WATER SYSTEM FOR CITY OF IBB. DURING MID-60S, AID PROVIDED BASIC ELEMENTS ON SELF-HELP BASIS TO A CITY THEN HAVING POPULATION OF 15,000. NOW IT HAS 40,000. ESTIMATED COST, OVER PERIOD OF TWO YEARS: \$200,000.

2. ABOVE PROJECTS ALL CONSIDERED HIGH PRIORITY BY YEMENI GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAS ALREADY APPROACHED US FOR ASSISTANCE IN THESE AREAS.

3. POPULATION. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT RECOMMEND DIRECT AID INVOLVEMENT, POTENTIAL PROBLEM OF OVERPOPULATION DEMANDS ATTENTION. PROBLEM WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY SERIOUS, PARTICULARLY AS PUBLIC HEALTH CONDITIONS IMPROVE AS RESULT OF IMPROVED URBAN WATER SUPPLIES AND OTHER MEASURES NOW PLANNED OR UNDER WAY. WHILE SOME GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS RECOGNIZE SERIOUSNESS OF PROBLEM, THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE IN WINNING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ACCEPTANCE FOR POPULATION PROGRAM. BEGINNING SHOULD BE MADE NOW WITH DEMOGRAPHIC STUDIES AND OTHER PREPARATORY STEPS. IBRD HAS LARGE INVOLVEMENT IN SUCH PUBLIC HEALTH PROJECTS AS SANAA WATER SUPPLY; AID/W MIGHT START BY MAKING INITIAL APPROACH TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POPULATION PEOPLE IN BANK WITH VIEW TO DEVELOPING PROJECT WHICH AID COULD SUPPORT FINANCIALLY.

4. ONGOING AID PROJECTS TO BRING WATER TO RURAL AREAS OFFER OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE RURAL HEALTH STANDARDS. ONE OR TWO PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES - PERHAPS FROM PEACE CORPS - COULD GO TO VILLAGES AS THEIR WATER PROGRAMS ARE COMPLETED TO SHOW VILLAGERS HOW TO IMPROVE SANITATION, PROTECT WATER SUPPLY

FROM CONTAMINATION, AND INSTRUCT VILLAGERS IN NUTRITION. WE SUGGEST AID/W APPROACH PC FOR POSSIBLE COOPERATION ON THIS PROPOSAL.

5. RESEARCH UNDER 1C AND 1D ABOVE MIGHT LOGICALLY BE APPROPRIATE FOR TAB ACTIVITIES. WE WOULD APPRECIATE LATEST INFORMATION ON CURRENT TAB SORGHUM RESEARCH PROJECT.

6. IMPLEMENTATION FOT THESE NEW ACTIVITIES WOULD REQUIRE COMMENSURATE INCREASE IN TECHNICAL SUPPORT ALLOCATIONS, ESTIMATED AT \$100,000.

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